(d) The steps being taken to reduce the level of excess stock include:

(i) Increase in the scale of issue under the PDS to 35 kg per family per month w.e.f. April, 2002.

(ii) Freezing of Central Issue Price (CIP) of foodgrains for BPL and APL families.

(iii) Implementation and expansion of the Antyodaya Anna Yojana Scheme.

(iv) Implementation of the foodgrains based Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY).

(v) Allocation of foodgrains under the Food for Work Programme and the Special Component of the SGRY.

(vi) Promotion of exports of foodgrains.

At present, the total storage capacity available with FCI all over the country is 308.18 lakh tonnes against the total stocks of 197.48 lakh tonnes with a capacity utilization of 64% as on 31.5.2003. As such, there is adequate storage space available with the FCI at present.

Sale of foodgrains to exporters

†1239. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Food Corporation of India sold wheat and rice for export in the last years;

(b) if so, the quantum of wheat and rice sold to the Indian exporters in the years 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 together with the prices at which these were sold; and

(c) the losses suffered by the Corporation on the basis of Economic Cost due to this sale for export in the above years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

MAHARIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Food Corporation of India (FCI) has reported that 20.43 lakh MTs, 39.65 lakh MTs and 67.93 lakh MTs of wheat have been lifted from the Central Pool by exporters during the years 2000-01, 2001 -02 and 2002-03 respectively. Similarly, 0.42 lakh MTs, 23.50 lakh MTs and 80.72 lakh MTs of rice have been lifted for export from the Central Pool during the above periods.

Wheat and rice are offered to exporters at Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) prices, which are fixed by the Government from time to time based on crop-year, variety and location of stocks. Post delivery and other WTO compatible expenses are allowed to them.

(c) Government of India reimburses the difference between economic cost and the sale price of foodgrains, as food subsidy.

Cost of buffer stock of foodgrains

†1240. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the value of the buffer stock of grains in the Food Corporation of India in the year 1996-97 was Rs. 827 crore which has increased to Rs. 8066 crores in the year 2002-03;

(b) if not, the facts in this regard; and

(c) the reasons for this tremendous increase in value together with the contribution of each of reasons for tremendous increase?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) and (b) In 1996-97 the carrying cost of buffer stock of grains in the FCI was Rs. 827 crore which increased to Rs. 6279 crore in 2002-03 (RE).

(c) The increase in the value of the buffer stock of grains in 2002-03 (RE) in comparison to 1996-97 is due to:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.